

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10
/091 W

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O 181631Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6212
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG/DR. OWEN REMARKS FOLLOWING
LUNCHEON AT LANCASTER HOUSE, JULY 18, 1977

OWEN: WE TALKED ABOUT NAMIBIA IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL
AND ABOUT RHODESIA AND ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA.

QUESTION: DO YOU SEE ANY PROSPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT
WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS OVER NAMIBIA WILL IN FACT BE
SOLD TO THE U.N.?

OWEN: I'M NOT SURE IF I LIKE THE TERMINOLOGY. WHAT
WE'RE WORKING FOR IS AGREEMENT BY EVERYONE. IT'UD
EARLY DAYS YET BUT
OBVIOUSLY WE WOULDN'T BE DOING
IT IF WE DIDN'T THINK IT OFFERED A PROSPECT OF WHAT'S
BEEN A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR DECADES, OF BRINGING ABOUT
MAJORITY RULE AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

QUESTION: WILL SWAPO JOIN WITH YOU?
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OWEN: WE HOPE SO. I MEAN WE HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT
COMMUNICATION, IN TOUCH WITH THEM AND WE HOPE THEY WILL.
OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

QUESTION: AFTER THE CABINET MEETING LAST WEEK, HAVE
YOU COME UP WITH ANY KIND OF ALTERNATIVE PLAN OTHER

THAN THE ONE YOU WERE WORKING ON?

OWEN: I DON'T THINK IT HAS CHANGED THAT MUCH. NO, NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVE PLANS, OBVIOUSLY OPTIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION, SOME HAVE BEEN PULLED BY THE ROADSIDE, SOME INCREASED THEIR STRENGTH, THE SITUATION CHANGES THE WHOLE TIME. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY AND ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, CAN YOU SEE A SETTLEMENT COMING OUT OF RHODESIA, INSIDE RHODESIA, OR DO YOU THINK IT COULD COME FROM OUTSIDE?

YOUNG: I, THAT'S A VERY LOADED QUESTION, I THINK THAT THERE'S CERTAINLY GOT TO COME A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, AND I THINK WE TEND TO FORGET THAT A DIPLOMATIC STRUGGLE IS EVERY BIT AS DIFFICULT AS A MILITARY STRUGGLE AND I THINK WHAT WE HAVE AGREED TO IS THAT WE'RE STILL VERY MUCH ENGAGED IN THE STRUGGLE, AND THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY ALTERNATIVES, MANY OPTIONS AND OUR GOVERNMENTS WILL BE PURSUING ALL OF THEM AS WE WOULD IF IT WERE ANY OTHER KIND OF STRUGGLE.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE? WHAT KIND OF AN ALTERNATIVE COULD YOU HAVE FOR THAT?
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OWEN: I REALLY DIDN'T.

QUESTION: YOU MUST HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOMETHING TO GO TO CYRUS VANCE ABOUT.

OWEN: WE TALKED ABOUT LOTS OF THINGS. WE TALKED ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE SENSE THE U.N. AND THE MIDDLE EAST PULLS VERY STRONG INNAMIBIA, THAT'S WHAT WE SPENT A LOT OF OUR TIME OVER. WE DISCUSSED ALL THE VARIED OPTIONS BUT I THINK YOU'VE GOT TO RECOGNISE THE SITUATION IS MOVING THE WHOLE TIME AND NO ONE IS GOING TO BE ADOPTING ENTRENCHED POSITIONS OR CONCRETE PLANS, WE'VE KEPT THEM FLUID, WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS TRY AND MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH COMMANDS THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO LIVE IN A FREE AND INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WE'RE AFTER, BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE IN ZIMBABWE, AND THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE TOGETHER AND IT'S VERY MUCH IN THEIR INTEREST THEY RESOLVE THIS VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM, WHICH RELATES TO THE TRANSITION BETWEEN THE EXISTING ILLEGAL SMITH

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 11783

REGIME AND A NEW FREELY ELECTED DEMOCRATIC ZIMBABWE
COUNTRY.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF
NOW GOING TO RHODESIA AGAIN?

OWEN: I WILL MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON THAT WHEN WE SEE HOW
THE SITUATION TURNS OUT AND CERTAINLY WON'T MAKE ANY
DEFINITE DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER I'VE BEEN TO THE UNITED
STATES.

QUESTION: IS YOUR GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY
DISAPPOINTED IN THE WAY THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP
IS GOING?

YOUNG: I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK THAT WE ARE A NATION
OF OPTIMISTS AND I THINK THAT THE KIND OF ENERGY AND
BRAIN POWER THAT DR. OWEN IS PUTTING INTO THIS CONSTANT-
LY IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN'T HELP BUT APPRECIATE AND
I THINK THAT WHENEVER WE GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET
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TOGETHER LIKE THIS TO COMPARE NOTES IT'S ALWAYS VERY
HELPFUL AND I'M SURE THAT DR. OWEN'S VISITS WITH
SECRETARY VANCE AND THE MONTHS TO COME WILL, WELL, WE'RE
GOING UP. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF
A DEAL BEING MADE WITH MAYBE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND
THE SMITH GOVERNMENT?

YOUNG: IT WOULDN'T BE NICE TO TALK ABOUT DEALS.

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